

Applicant: Kolacz et al.
Application No.: 09/516,076

Amend claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 to read as follows (A version of these claims showing the amendments is attached as Exhibit A:

1. (Amended.) A pivoting fluid conduit joint comprising:

a socket;

a ball disposed in the socket for movement relative to the socket; and

a trunnion joining the ball and socket to permit relative pivoting movement

between the ball and socket about an axis defined by the trunnion, wherein the

trunnion is fixed to the ball, and

a one-way brake, wherein the one-way brake comprises:

a stepped sleeve operable to engage the trunnion;

a brake housing fixed to the socket and defining a cylindrical opening for

receiving the stepped sleeve, the brake housing and the stepped sleeve cooperate

to define a tapered slot having a wide end and a narrow end;

a cylinder disposed in the tapered slot; and

a spring disposed in the wide end of the tapered slot to urge the cylinder toward

the narrow end of the tapered slot.

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2. (Amended.) A pivoting fluid conduit joint comprising:

a socket;

a ball disposed in the socket for movement relative to the socket;

a trunnion joining the ball and socket to permit relative pivoting movement

between the ball and socket about an axis defined by the trunnion, wherein the

trunnion is fixed to the socket; and

a one-way brake wherein the one-way brake comprises:

a stepped sleeve operable to engage the trunnion;

a brake housing fixed to the ball and defining a cylindrical opening for receiving the stepped sleeve, the brake housing and the stepped sleeve cooperate to define a tapered slot having a wide end and a narrow end;

a cylinder disposed in the tapered slot; and

a spring disposed in the wide end of the tapered slot to urge the cylinder toward the narrow end of the tapered slot.

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10. (Amended.) A pivoting fluid conduit joint defining a conduit, comprising:

a first socket;

a first ball disposed in the first socket and pivotably joined to the first socket along a first axis;

a second socket fixed to the first ball;

a second ball disposed in the second socket and pivotably joined to the second socket along a second axis oriented at a substantially right angle to the first axis;

a trunnion fixed to the first ball; and

a brake for resisting pivoting movement of the first ball relative to the first socket, wherein the brake comprises:

a stepped sleeve operable to engage the trunnion;

a brake housing fixed to the socket and defining a cylindrical opening for receiving the

stepped sleeve, the brake housing and the stepped sleeve cooperate to define a tapered slot having a wide end and a narrow end;
a cylinder disposed in the tapered slot; and
a spring disposed in the wide end of the tapered slot to urge the cylinder toward the narrow end of the tapered slot.

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11. (Amended.) A pivoting fluid conduit joint defining a conduit, comprising:
a first socket;
a first ball disposed in the first socket and pivotably joined to the first socket
along a first axis;
a second socket fixed to the first ball; and
a second ball disposed in the second socket and pivotably joined to the second socket
along a second axis oriented at a substantially right angle to the first axis;
a trunnion fixed to the first socket, and a brake for resisting pivoting movement
of the first ball relative to the first socket, wherein the brake comprises:
a stepped sleeve operable to engage the trunnion;
a brake housing fixed to the ball and defining a cylindrical opening for receiving the
stepped sleeve, the brake housing and the stepped sleeve cooperate to define a tapered slot having a wide end and a narrow end;
a cylinder disposed in the tapered slot; and
a spring disposed in the wide end of the tapered slot to urge the cylinder toward the narrow end of the tapered slot.